

April 12-13, 2007

Understanding the declines in skilled nursing facility quality

ISSUE: In the March 2007 report, we noted that two risk-adjusted quality measures for skilled nursing facilities—rates of discharge to the community and avoidable hospital readmissions—showed that quality declined between 2000 and 2004. To better understand these trends, we contracted with researchers from the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center to identify the factors associated with the changes over time, such as differences in case mix, facility mix, and staffing. The researchers also examined the relationship between these two measures and Medicare’s publicly-reported quality measures.

KEY POINTS: Dr. Andrew Kramer from the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center will present the results of this research, including:

- The factors associated with declines in community discharge rates,
- The factors associated with increases in potentially avoidable rehospitalization rates, and
- The relationships between these two measures and the publicly reported quality measures.

ACTION: This presentation is informational. No Commission action is required.

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